CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1.   An interactive broadcast system, comprising:

an interactive electronic program guide (EPG) having a grid-guide menu identifying programs and at least one multiple-level nested cascading menu adapted to be overlaid upon a current page of the grid-guide menu; and

a control device for navigating within the grid-guide menu and the at least one multiple-level nested cascading menu.

2.   The system according to Claim 1, wherein during navigation, within the at least one multiple-level nested cascading menu, a nested, cascading category-tree of submenus appear and are overlaid upon the current page of the grid-guide menu until the nested, cascading category-tree is exhausted.

3.   The system according to Claim 1, further comprising:

means for entering a program name; and

means for searching and identifying programs that closely match the entered program name, and listing a channel station name and show time for each of these programs found via the grid-guide menu.

4.   The system according to Claim 1, wherein the EPG further

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comprises:

a pull-down menu for selecting one of a plurality of time windows, each time window having a different time duration; and

means for controlling the grid-guide menu to list a program schedule of the channels for the selected time window.

5.   The system according to Claim 1, further comprising means for intercepting multiple programs selected from a single grid-guide menu display for recording, later viewing on demand or later review of selections.

6.   The system according to Claim 5, wherein the control device includes:

means for selecting the multiple programs during a single selection sequence; and

means for fetching the selected multiple programs selected during the single selection sequence for recording, later viewing on demand, or later review of the selections.

7.   The system according to Claim 1, further comprising:

means for creating folders via the at least one multiple-level nested cascading menu, each folder having at least one file wherein each file has a

programmable program profile; and

means for acquiring and identifying via the EPG those programs related to the programmable program profile.

8.   The system according to Claim 1, further comprising means for listing the programs under a selected category or theme sequentially for a specified time period.

9.   The system according to Claim 1, further comprising means for storing a user profile in a folder or file for later access, review, view-on-demand, or recording.

10.   The system according to Claim 1, further comprising a pointing cursor to navigate through the EPG.

11.   The system according to Claim 1, further comprising alphanumeric keys for alphanumeric data and request entry.

12.   The system according to Claim 11, wherein the control device further comprising a MENU/SELECT button to effectuate a selection command, and a GO button to effectuate a fetch command of the selection command.

13. The system according to Claim 12, wherein the fetch command activates fetching of multiple selection commands from a current grid-guide menu.

14. The system according to Claim 11, wherein the control device is virtual and displayed in combination with the EPG.

15. The system according to Claim 11, further comprising means for selecting multiple sets of selected programs under separate folders or files for recording, accessing or reviewing.

16. An interactive media computing and communication system, comprising:

a display; and

an interactive electronic content guide (ECG) displayed on the display having a grid-guide menu identifying broadcast content and at least one multiple-level nested cascading menu adapted to be overlaid upon a current page of the grid-guide menu.

17. The system according to Claim 16, wherein during navigation,

within the at least one multiple-level nested cascading menu, a nested, cascading category-tree of submenus appear and are overlaid upon the current page of the grid-guide menu, until the nested, cascading category-tree is exhausted.

18.   The system according to Claim 16, wherein the ECG further comprises:

means for entering a program name; and

means for searching and identifying programs that closely matches the entered program name, and list that channel station name and show time for each of these programs found via the grid-guide menu.

19.   The system according to Claim 16, wherein the ECG further comprises:

a pull-down menu for selecting one of a plurality of time windows, each time window having a different time duration; and

means for controlling the grid-guide menu to list a schedule of the broadcast content for the selected time window.

20.   The system according to Claim 16, further comprising means for intercepting multiple programs of the broadcast content selected from a single grid-guide menu display for recording, later viewing on demand or later review

of selections.

21.   The system according to Claim 20, further comprising:

means for navigating within the grid-guide menu and the at least one multiple-level nested cascading menu, the navigating means includes:

means for selecting multiple programs of the broadcast content during a single selection sequence; and

means for fetching the selected multiple programs selected during the single selection sequence for recording, later viewing on demand, or later review of the selections.

22.   The system according to Claim 16, further comprising:

means for creating folders via the at least one multiple-level nested cascading menu, each folder having at least one file wherein each file has a programmable content profile; and

means for identifying via the ECG the broadcast content related to the programmable content profile.

23.   The system according to Claim 16, wherein the ECG further comprises means for listing the broadcast content under a selected category or theme sequentially for a specified time period.

24.   The system according to Claim 16, wherein the ECG further comprises:

means for storing a user profile in a folder or file for later access, review, view-on-demand, or recording;

means for intercepting broadcast content related to the user profile; and

means for listing or presenting the intercepted broadcast content.

25.   The system according to Claim 16, wherein the ECG further comprises a pointing cursor to navigate through the ECG.

26.   The system according to Claim 16, further comprising means for navigating within the grid-guide menu and the at least one multiple-level nested cascading menu, wherein the navigating means includes alphanumeric keys for alphanumeric data and request entry.

27.   The system according to Claim 26, wherein the navigating means further includes:

a MENU/SELECT button to effectuate a selection command; and

a GO button to effectuate a fetch command of the selection command.

28. The system according to Claim 27, wherein the fetch command activates fetching of multiple selection commands from a current grid-guide menu.

29. The system according to Claim 27, wherein the navigating means is virtual and displayed in combination with the ECG.

30. The system according to Claim 27, wherein the navigating means includes a rollball to move a cursor on the display to a desired cell of the grid-guide menu in a direct shortest-path motion.

31. The system according to Claim 27, further comprising means for selecting multiple sets of selected broadcast content under separate folders or files for recording, accessing or reviewing.

32. The system according to Claim 16, wherein:

the display is a TV screen;

the system is integrated into or interfaced with a TV; and

the broadcast content is wired or wireless via cable systems, satellite systems, or the Internet.

33.   The system according to Claim 16, wherein:

the display is a computer display, a Kiosk display, cell-phone display or other electronic display terminal;

the system is integrated into or interfaced with a computer; and

the broadcast content is wired or wireless via cable system, satellite system or the Internet.

34.   A control device for interfacing with a display, comprising:

a rollball to move a cursor on the display to a desired cell in a direct shortest-path motion; and

alphanumeric buttons for entering alphabetic and numeric entries on the display.

35.   The device according to claim 34, further comprising:

a MENU/SELECT button to effectuate a selection command; and

a GO button to effectuate a fetch command of the selection command.

36.   The device according to claim 35, wherein the control device is a hand-held remote control device.

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37.   The device according to claim 35, wherein the control device is a virtual control device displayed on the display.

38.   The device according to claim 35, further comprising:

channel up and down keys for selecting a program channel;

a GUIDE button for displaying a electronic programming guide menu; and

VCR control buttons including a record button.